

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Derrick Motor Company

and/or common Kensington Service Center

2. Location

street & number 3794 Howard Avenue ☐ not for publication

city, town Kensington ☐ vicinity of congressional district 13

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Robert & J. A. Orr

street & number 3794 Howard Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Kensington state and zip code MD 20895

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 7328

street & number folio 779

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Kensington Historic District, M-NCPPC Historic Sites Inventory

date 1986, 1976 ☐ federal ☒ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records M-NCPPC Park Historian's Office

city, town Rockville state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. M: 31-15

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Kensington Service Station is a small, one-story, brick commercial building, polygonal in plan, with a standing-seam, metal-covered hip roof. It consists of a small, five-sided enclosed office and a covered drive-through. The roof, projecting to shelter the drive-through, rests on square masonry piers, between which stand the gasoline pumps. The building has a brick base approximately two feet high. Above this the walls and piers are stuccoed. A thin band of sheet metal, ribbed top and bottom, wraps around the drive-through portion just beneath the soffit. The ceilings of both office and drive-through are covered with pressed-metal.

The office is entered by a glazed center door with transom above. A clock has been mounted in front of the transom. At each side of the door are large single-pane windows with six-light transoms above.

8. Significance

Survey No. M: 31-15

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1926

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

In 1924, Howard L. Derrick bought a large lot on the corner of Howard Avenue and Connecticut Avenue (now called Armory Avenue -- Connecticut has been re-routed to the west) from the Kensington Masonic Temple Association (Deed 358/151). In 1926 he constructed a gasoline filling station and established a Ford dealership, which he operated for three years.¹ In 1929 he purchased Aldercroft, an estate in Ashton, and built a filling station adjoining the house.² He sold the station in Kensington to the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey (Deed 478/305), and moved his dealership to Ashton in 1929. In the 1939-40 telephone directory the Kensington property is listed as Moore's Esso Service Station, and it continues in use as a filling station and repair shop today.

Montgomery County once had many gasoline stations like this, small brick offices with covered drive-throughs. They were common all over the United States in the 1920s and early 1930s. Today only two such stations remain in the County, and the other one, the Phillips 66 station in Sandy Spring, is threatened with demolition when Route 108 is widened. Thus, the Kensington Service Station may soon be the only surviving example of a type of commercial architecture that played a strong role in the growth of our auto-oriented culture. Modern gasoline stations have incorporated the design features of these 1920s stations: a small enclosed office for collecting money, and a large sheltering roof covering the cars which are being filled with gas. Stations such as the Kensington one, then, are the historical precedents for today's stations, and provide an important link in the evolution of this aspect of commercial architecture.

REFERENCES

1. Gaithersburg *Gazette*, Feb. 23, 1983.

2. *Annals of Sandy Spring*, Vol. V, Apr. 1929-Mar. 1930.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M: 31-15

Montgomery County Land Records and Tax Assessment Records.
Gaithersburg Gazette, Feb. 23, 1983. Sanborn Fire Maps, 1924 & 1933.
Polk's Washington Suburban Directory, 1927-28.
Annals of Sandy Spring, Vol. V., April 1929-March 1930.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6,577 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state MD code 24 county Montgomery code 03state MD code 24 county Montgomery code 03

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea Rebeckorganization Mont. Co. Hist. Pres. Comm. date 11/87

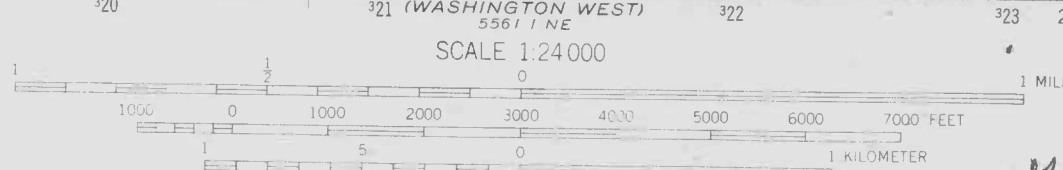
street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town Rockville state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of
individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

KENSINGTON

Boundary lines shown in purple
information available from the
Purple tint indicates exterior
Revisions shown in purple
taken 1977 and other sources
field checked. Map edited



M: 31-15

Kensington Service Center

3794 Howard Avenue

Kensington, MD

Andrea Rebeck

1987

Looking Northeast